

FAR EAST

1. INDOCHINA: France intends to defend Chinese border--The Consulate General in Saigon has been informed by French General Staff Chief Revers that France has already taken the decision to defend the northern frontier of Indochina against possible attack from China. General Revers indicated that his current mission in Indochina is not to decide whether such defense should be made but how to do it. Revers expressed the view that the new military problem created by the possibility of Communist attack from China has increased the importance of a settlement of the Indochinese political situation.

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(CIA Comment: CIA does not believe that Indochina is in imminent danger of attack by the Chinese Communists. The French apparently still regard the improvement of their military position in Indochina as a prerequisite to a political solution and are emphasizing the Chinese Communist danger in order to justify future requests for US military aid.)

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